

# For Immediate Release



City of Renton - 1055 South Grady Way  
Renton, WA 98057

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## **RENTON CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS 2007 BUDGET**

### ***Council Adds Code Compliance Officer and Increases Budget For Public Safety***

RENTON – On December 11, 2006, the Renton City Council passed the 2007 budget. The Council adopted a balanced budget of \$210,861,478 with an increase of the ending fund balance of \$1,778,193 for a total budget of \$212,639,671. The city's general fund supports essential city services such as police, fire, parks, human services, planning and recreation. The budget also includes over \$58 million for capital improvement projects, one of the largest budgets in recent years for significant projects for transportation, parks and trails, the airport and utilities.

"This budget represents the values of our community and this Council," said Council President Randy Corman. "The Council focused on a budget that will contribute positively to our community's quality of life. With this budget we are investing in enhancing public safety, supporting basic human needs, improving transportation infrastructure, and fiscal responsibility. And with so many opportunities and projects on our plate right now, it is extremely valuable to go into 2007 with unanimous Council support of the budget. I applaud our City Council and staff for a job well done."

#### **Budget Highlights:**

- **Increased costs:** Increases in the city's contributions to the mandatory retirement system by an average of 44.5% (as required by the State of Washington) and increased cost of employee health insurance by 10%.
- **Additional Staff Resources:** Addition of a Code Compliance Officer for a total increase of 19 employees. Change in the effective date of hire for the two patrol officers from July 2007 to January 2007.
- **Public Safety:** Increase in overtime budget of \$150,000 for a neighborhood traffic enforcement pilot program and crime reduction emphasis in the Highlands neighborhood.
- **Economic Development and Neighborhood Revitalization:** Increase of \$300,000 for downtown way-finding and gateway signage, and for a study to better link the downtown with other commercial centers.

The Council also agreed to consider property tax increases, aquatic center fees, consideration of hydrology matters, and a permanent restroom at the downtown transit center during the first quarter of 2007.

For more information on the budget, please visit <http://rentonwa.gov>

